

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment, and consideration of this application, as amended.

All of the claims (Claims 1-20) as originally filed have been cancelled. New claims 21-40 have been added and relate to the originally filed specification and claims as follows.

The present application has been filed in order to specifically claim a method for removing bromine-reactive contaminants from an aromatic hydrocarbon stream which uses an *unbound or self-bound* acid active catalyst composition to remove mono-olefin bromine-reactive contaminants from aromatic hydrocarbon feedstreams of negligible diene level.

Support for the “unbound” limitation of claims 21 and 39 can be found in claim 9 as originally filed whilst the “self-bound” limitation finds support in the specification at page 13, line 26.

The relationship between the original claims and claims 21-40 can be described in further detail. Claim 21 corresponds to original claim 1 but incorporates the “unbound” “self-bound” limitations above-described. Claims 22-28 correspond to original claims 2-8, respectively. Claims 29-35 correspond to original claims 11-17, respectively. Claim 36 relates specifically to unbound catalyst, claim 37 relates specifically to self-bound catalyst and claim 38 relates specifically to MCM-22 self-bound catalyst, support for which is found at page 13, line 26 of the original specification.

Claim 39 corresponds to original claim 18 with the “unbound or self-bound” limitation taken from original claim 9 and page 13, line 26 of the specification. Claim 40 relates specifically to MCM-22 self-bound catalyst, support for which is found at page 13, line 26 of the original specification.

Claims 21-40 are presently in the application.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims describe a new, useful and unobvious method for decreasing bromine-reactive contaminants in aromatic streams with an unbound acid active catalyst. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter and allow the presently amended claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By Edward F. Sherer
Edward F. Sherer
Reg. No. 29,588
Attorney for Applicants
(281) 834-5933

ExxonMobil Chemical Company
4500 Bayway
P.O. Box 2149
Baytown, TX 77522-2149

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as express mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

on June 25, 2001
Cecilia J. Kobza
Cecilia J. Kobza